

WILLARD K. TOM  
General Counsel

THEODORE H. HOPPOCK  
DEVIN W. DOMOND  
ELISE D. WHANG  
SYDNEY M. KNIGHT  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Room NJ-3212  
Washington, DC 20580  
202-326-3087  
202-326-3529 (facsimile)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

---

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**IOVATE HEALTH SCIENCES USA,  
INC.; IOVATE HEALTH SCIENCES  
INC.; and IOVATE HEALTH SCIENCES  
GROUP INC., now known as KERR  
INVESTMENT HOLDING CORP.,**

**CASE NO.**

Defendants.

---

**COMPLAINT FOR PERMANENT INJUNCTION AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF**

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), for its Complaint alleges:

1. The FTC brings this action under Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission

Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), to obtain a permanent injunction, rescission or reformation of contracts, restitution, the refund of monies paid, disgorgement of ill-gotten monies, and other equitable relief for Defendants’ acts or practices in violation of Sections 5(a) and 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a) and 52.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a) and 1345, and 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 52 and 53(b).

3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c), and (d) and 15 U.S.C. § 53(b).

**PLAINTIFF**

4. The FTC is an independent agency of the United States Government created by statute. 15 U.S.C. §§ 41-58. The FTC enforces Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), which prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. The FTC also enforces Section 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 52, which prohibits false advertisements for food, drugs, devices, services, or cosmetics in or affecting commerce.

5. The FTC is authorized to initiate federal district court proceedings, by its own attorneys, to enjoin violations of the FTC Act and to secure such equitable relief as may be appropriate in each case, including rescission or reformation of contracts, restitution, the refund of monies paid, and the disgorgement of ill-gotten monies. 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 56(a)(2)(A).

**DEFENDANTS**

6. Defendant Iovate Health Sciences Inc. (“Iovate Health”) is a Canadian corporation with its principal place of business at 381 North Service Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 0H4 Canada. At all times material to this Complaint, acting alone or in concert with

others, Iovate Health has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold a variety of products purported to cause weight loss, including, but not limited to, Accelis and nanoSLIM (collectively, “Iovate Weight-Loss Products”), and other products purported to provide other health benefits, including, but not limited to, Cold MD, Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs, Germ MD Effervescent Tablets, Allergy MD, and Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs (collectively, “Iovate MD Products”) (Iovate Weight-Loss Products and Iovate MD Products collectively referred to as “Iovate Products”) to consumers in this District and throughout the United States. Iovate Health transacts or has transacted business in this District.

7. Defendant Iovate Health Sciences U.S.A., Inc. (“Iovate USA”) is a Delaware corporation. Formerly, it had a distribution warehouse located at 3880 Jeffrey Boulevard, Blasdell, New York 14219; however, currently, it does not have a United States business address. At all times material to this Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others, Iovate USA has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold Iovate Products to consumers in this District and throughout the United States. Iovate USA transacts or has transacted business in this District.

8. Defendant Iovate Health Sciences Group Inc., n/k/a Kerr Investment Holding Corp. (“Kerr”), is a Canadian corporation with its principal place of business at 381 North Service Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 0H4 Canada. Kerr is the parent company of Iovate Health and Iovate USA. At all times material to this Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others, Kerr has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold Iovate Products to consumers in this District and throughout the United States.

**COMMERCE**

9. At all times material to this Complaint, Defendants have maintained a substantial course of trade in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

**DEFENDANTS' BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

10. At all times material to the Complaint, Defendants have labeled, advertised, promoted, offered for sale, sold, and distributed to retailers and consumers the following products throughout the United States: 1) Accelis since at least January 2006 until April 2008; 2) nanoSLIM since at least February 2007 until March 2009; 3) Cold MD since at least September 2006 until June 2007; 4) Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid Tabs since at least August 2007 until April 2008; 5) Germ MD Effervescent Tablets since at least August 2007 through April 2008; 6) Allergy MD since at least February 2007 until June 2007; and 7) Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs since at least October 2007 until September 2008. Advertisements for these products have appeared on the Internet and various cable television channels. Advertisements also have appeared in nationally circulated magazines.

**Defendants' Product Sales**

11. At all times relevant to this complaint, the Iovate Products were available for purchase at a wide range of retail stores and over the Internet.

12. Net sales for the Iovate Weight-Loss Products from inception through 2009 totaled approximately \$21.3 million. Net sales for Accelis totaled approximately \$15 million from 2006 through 2009. Net sales for nanoSLIM totaled approximately \$6.3 million from 2007 through 2009.

13. Net sales of Iovate MD Products from inception through 2009 totaled nearly \$5.7

million. Net sales for Cold MD totaled roughly \$4.1 million for 2006 through 2009. Net sales for Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs and Germ MD Effervescent Tablets, combined, totaled approximately \$792,000 for 2007 through 2009. Net sales for both for Allergy MD and Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs, combined, totaled approximately \$781,000 from 2007 through 2009.

**Defendants' Product Representations**

14. To induce consumers to purchase **Accelis**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits A through D. Among other things, the advertisements contain the following statements or depictions:

- a. Accelis Packaging (*Ex. A*)

**Front Panel:**

[Holographic picture of woman in bikini. In one image the word “Before” appears with the woman in a light-colored bikini; in the other image the word “After” shows her in a dark-colored bikini. To the left of the holographic picture the following statement appears: **“I LOST 47 lbs. after struggling with my weight for years.”**]

**Accelis**

***Fast Weight Loss - Made Easy!***

**Side Panel:**

**Accelis Makes Weight Loss Easy, Effective and FAST!**

\* \* \*

[Before and after photos of three purported users claiming to have lost 47 pounds in 37 weeks, 24 pounds in 12 weeks, and 29 pounds in 15 weeks.]

\* \* \*

Researchers have discovered an incredible way to help accelerate your weight loss!

b. Accelis Advertisement (*Ex. B*)

**She LOST 23 lbs. . . .**

\* \* \*

Tunde lost an incredible 24 pounds in just 12 weeks . . .

[Before and after photos of two purported users claiming to have lost 23 pounds in 12 weeks and 47 pounds in 37 weeks.]

**CLINICALLY PROVEN KEY INGREDIENT**

Doctor-formulated Accelis is a revolutionary scientific breakthrough that fits easily into your hectic routine. . . . Expert researchers believe the clinically proven key ingredient in Accelis produces rapid weight loss by increasing the rate at which your body uses up your blood sugar for energy.

\* \* \*

\*In an 8-week study, subjects using the key ingredient in Accelis (3% corosolic acid) lost an average of 10.65 pounds, as compared to subjects using a placebo, who lost an average of only 5.87 pounds. Both groups followed a calorie-reduced diet.

c. Accelis Advertisement (*Ex. C*)

Fast, Easy, Proven Results . . .

“Accelis helped me lose 24 lbs. in 12 weeks! It’s really easy.”

- Nicole Reuben

**FAST\*** . . . Thanks to the rapid-release liquid softgel technology and a clinically proven ingredient, you experience accelerated weight loss you can see and feel!

\* \* \*

**PROVEN . . .**

d. Section From Accelis Website (*Ex. D*, p. 1); *see also Ex. B, Ex. C.*

In an 8-week study, **subjects using the key ingredient in Accelis lost an average of 10.65 pounds** while compared to subjects using the placebo who lost an average of 5.87 pounds. . . . Additionally, the researchers noted that half of the subjects using the key ingredient in Accelis lost

greater than 10 pounds! Two exceptional participants had a weight loss greater than 20 pounds!

**With Accelis, the study group had almost double the weight loss of the placebo group! The key ingredient in Accelis was found to be effective as a weight-loss product.**

15. To induce consumers to purchase **nanoSLIM**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits E through G. Among other things, the advertisements contained the following statements or depictions:

- a. nanoSLIM Packaging (*Ex. E*)

Front Panel:

nanoSLIM

\* \* \*

Powerful Designer Formula For Faster Weight Loss!

\* \* \*

Side Panel:

\* \* \*

In an 8-week clinical study, subjects using the key ingredient in nanoSLIM lost an average of 10.65 lbs., as compared to subjects using a placebo, who lost an average of only 5.87 lbs.

\* \* \*

Back Panel:

Finally, the world's smallest, incredibly powerful weight-loss pill is here! Introducing nanoSLIM – the most discreet, easy-to-use product with the strength and power to deliver faster, more dramatic weight-loss results with diet and exercise! . . . nanoSLIM researchers packed scientifically tested, ultra-effective weight-loss power into the world's smallest weight-loss pill! Today, nanoSLIM is the only product that offers the best of both worlds – powerful, accelerated weight loss and complete ease-of-use!

- b. nanoSLIM Website (*Ex. F, p. 1*)

\* \* \*

In one 8-week study, participants using the key ingredient in nanoSLIM lost an average of 10.65 lbs., as compared to participants using a placebo, who lost an average of 5.87 lbs.

\* \* \*

[nanoSLIM] may be small, but it's extremely powerful and its technologically advanced formula will help you lose weight fast!

\* \* \*

Enormously Powerful,  
Impossibly Small

\* \* \*

Become A Success Story

What's a great way to see how nanoSLIM can work for you? Sign up for your chance at an endorsement contract.

c. nanoSLIM Website (*Ex. F, p. 2*)

\* \* \*

nanoSLIM - World's Smallest Weight-Loss Solution

- Nano-Engineered for Rapid Absorption & Maximum Effectiveness
- Proven to Cause Faster, More Dramatic Weight-Loss

d. nanoSLIM Advertisement (*Ex. G*)

**It's your tiny little secret for faster weight loss!**

**Lose weight faster . . .**

\* \* \*

In fact, in an 8-week study, subjects following a calorie-controlled diet lost an incredible 10.65 lbs. using just the key ingredient in nanoSLIM. Compare that to subjects following the same diet and using a placebo who lost only 5.87 lbs!

With nanoSLIM, you get the best of both worlds – accelerated weight loss and complete ease-of-use.

\* \* \*

**Lost 32 lbs. FAST**

"I lost 32 pounds and I'm ecstatic. My ultimate goal is to compete in a figure contest so I am on my way now to being in that kind of shape."

- Rebecca Short

16. To induce consumers to purchase **Cold MD**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits H through M. Among other things, the advertisements contain the following statements or depictions:

a. Cold MD Packaging (*Ex. H*)

Front Panel

[Pictures of a woman blowing her nose into a tissue and a man with his eyes closed holding his head right above his nose at his sinuses]

\* \* \*

**Cold MD**

**Clinically Proven Immune System Support for**

- ▷ 94% Faster Recovery
- ▷ Clinically Proven Results!

**Increased Immune System Resistance by 312%**

Back Panel

▷ **The All-in-One Solution**

\* \* \*

**Cold MD** is an all-in-one formula that delivers clinically proven immune system support. In addition, by supporting your immune system, Cold MD helps you recover an average of 94% faster. In fact, in a rigorous double-blind clinical study reviewed by a medical doctor, the powerful immune system support effects of Cold MD were validated.

▷ **312% Increased Immune System Resistance**

Furthermore, the exclusive formula supports a strong immune system with clinically proven ingredients, which result in 312% greater immune system resistance.

\* \* \*

For increased immune system support in crowded or congested locations, take 1 serving (2 caplets) before entering buses, offices, restaurants, schools, airplanes, trains, or public places.

Just 1 convenient serving a day of 2 non-drowsy EZ-swallow sweet-

coated caplets is all that's needed for ongoing clinically proven immune system support. Why continue to suffer unnecessarily? Cold MD is a clinically proven, all-in-one solution that works fast!

Side Panel

\* \* \*

A clinical study was conducted on the key ingredient combination in Cold MD. Subjects were observed for 2 seasons. In this study, subjects

- Reduced the frequency of episodes by an average of 3.3 vs. 0.8 against placebo (312% greater resistance).
- Reduced the duration of episodes by an average of 3.3. days vs. 1.7 days against placebo (recover 94% faster).

b. Cold MD Advertisement to Retailers (*Ex. I*)

**YOUR CUSTOMERS'  
ULTIMATE  
DEFENSE  
Against  
Colds & Flu!**

[Photo of five individuals wearing white lab coats and stethoscopes.

Below a caption reads:]

Meet the MDs in new Cold MD

Americans suffer from one billion colds annually, so it's no surprise millions of your customers will be looking to you for cold and flu protection this season. Fortunately these MDs have the solution.

\* \* \*

Cold MD Provides Clinically Proven Immune System Support for:

- **Increased Resistance to Colds & Flu by 312%**
- **94% Faster Recovery from Colds & Flu**
- **Clinically Proven Results**
- **Maximum Support When Used Daily**

**COLDMD: leading the FIGHT against  
colds and flu across the nation!**

c. Cold MD Advertisement (*Ex. J*)

**NEW CLINICAL BREAKTHROUGH!  
DOCTOR-FORMULATED & APPROVED**

**The ULTIMATE DEFENSE  
Against Colds & Flu**

\* \* \*

New Cold MD is an immune system support formula that increases your immune system resistance by 312 percent and also helps you recover 94 percent faster if you do happen to catch a cold. With results like this, you won't ever want to be without Cold MD. What also makes Cold MD unique is its three lines of defense:

- 1) Use daily for maximum immune system protection;
- 2) For added protection, Cold MD can also be taken at the first sign of cold or flu, and additionally;
- 3) Use before entering crowded or congested areas such as airplanes, buses, offices, restaurants, schools, trains, or other public places where viruses linger for even more protection.

It's that easy! Get new Cold MD and start protecting yourself from colds and flu today!

\* \* \*

**Cold MD provides clinically proven immune system support:**

- ✓ **Increased Resistance to colds & flu by 312%**
- ✓ **94% Faster Recovery from colds & flu**
- ✓ **Clinically Proven Results**

d. Cold MD Advertisement (*Ex. K*)

**312% GREATER PROTECTION AGAINST COLDS & FLU**

[Picture of a man sneezing on another man who is surrounded by a bubble. The picture is on another graphic of floating germs. Under the picture, it reads:]

By taking Cold MD regularly, you increase your body's immune system defense by supporting its ability to quickly neutralize cold-causing viruses that enter your body. The result is enhanced protection against colds and flu.

\* \* \*

- ✓ **1. Use daily for maximum support;**
- ✓ **2. For added protection, take Cold MD at the first sign of a cold or flu, and;**
- ✓ **3. Take before entering crowded or congested areas for even more**

**protection.**

e. Cold MD Video Ad Storyboard (*Ex. L*)

[Split screen shots of man and woman sneezing into tissues.]

[**LARGE SUPER:**] Americans suffer 1 billion colds annually.

MALE ANNOUNCER: Americans suffer one billion colds annually. Only your immune system can destroy these viruses.

SUPER: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

[Two women and three men wearing white lab coats; one man also has a stethoscope around his neck.]

DOCTOR: A trusted team of medical doctors now has a way to fight back.

[Picture of Cold MD Box.]

DOCTOR: Introducing new Cold MD: the world's only immune support formula . . .

[Man sneezing on another man in an elevator. Circular germs and saliva leave the sneezing man in the direction of the other man who is surrounded by a bubble. The circular germs bounce off the bubble.]

[**LARGE SUPER:**] **312% More Resistance!**

DOCTOR: that increases your resistance to colds and flu by 312%.

SUPER: A clinical study of new ingredients reduced the frequency of episodes by an avg. of 3.3. vs. 0.8 against placebo

[Split screen of man and woman sneezing into tissues.]

[**LARGE SUPER:**] **Recover 94% Faster!**

DOCTOR: With Cold MD you can also recover an

SUPER: A clinical study of new ingredients reduced the duration of episodes by an avg. of 3.3. vs. 1.7 days against placebo

[Split screen of same man and woman who were sneezing previously, but man is smiling and woman is smiling and talking on the phone.]

DOCTOR: amazing 94% faster.

SUPER: A clinical study of new ingredients reduced the frequency of episodes by an avg. of 3.3. vs. 0.8 against placebo

[Same image of five individuals in white lab coats, including man with stethoscope around his neck.]

DOCTOR: We're the MDs in new Cold MD:

SUPER: Individuals have been remunerated.

[Picture of Cold MD Box.]

[**LARGE SUPER:**] **A Clinical Breakthrough!**

DOCTOR: your ultimate defense against colds and flu.

SUPER: These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent disease.

[Screen shots of Cold MD box with trademarks for various retailers including Wal Mart, CVS/pharmacy, Vitamin Shoppe, Kmart, and Albertsons.]

[LARGE SUPER:] **A Clinical Breakthrough!**

MALE ANNOUNCER: Get yours at [coldmdhelp.com](http://coldmdhelp.com), Wal Mart, CVS and fine retailers everywhere.

SUPER: These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent disease.

f. Cold MD Website (*Ex. M, p. 1*)

#### **COLD MD – THE ULTIMATE IMMUNE SYSTEM SUPPORT FORMULA**

\* \* \*

**Cold MD is the world's only immune system support formula that:**

- **Increases immune system resistance by 312 percent**
- **Helps you recover 94 percent faster**
- **Has clinically proven results**

\* \* \*

New Cold MD is an immune system support formula that increases your resistance by 312 percent and helps you recover 94 percent faster. In fact, a clinical study on the key ingredient combination in Cold MD™ showed subjects reduced the frequency of episodes by an average of 3.3 vs. 0.8 against the placebo (312 percent greater resistance). In the same study, subjects reduced the duration of episodes by an average of 3.3 days vs. 1.7 days against the placebo (94 percent faster recovery).

17. To induce consumers to purchase **Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs** and **Germ MD Effervescent Tablets**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits N through Q. Among other things, the advertisements contained the following statements or depictions:

a. Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid Tabs Packaging (*Ex. N*)

Front Panel:

[Several multicolored cartoon germs.]

## **GERM MD**

\* \* \*

**Helps Support a Healthy Immune System**

\* \* \*

**USE WHERE YOU NEED IT MOST:**

✓ SCHOOLS	✓ AIRPLANES
✓ OFFICES	✓ SUBWAYS
✓ THEATERS	✓ RESTAURANTS
✓ MALLS	✓ HEALTH CLUBS
	✓ USE DAILY

\* \* \*

Side Panel:

**DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

Take 1 serving (2 Rapid-Tabs) of Germ MD every day.

In Addition, GERM MD can also be taken:

Before entering crowded or congested locations, e.g., buses, offices, restaurants, schools, airplanes, trains or other public places.

Back Panel:

\* \* \*

### **► The Power of New Germ MD**

It is not possible to remove germs from your everyday life, but now you can be proactive with new Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs! Germ MD is your number one immune defense.

b. Germ MD Effervescent Tablets Packaging (*Ex. O*); *see also* Germ MD Advertisement for Retailers (*Ex. P*).

Front Panel:

[Several multicolored cartoon germs.]

## **GERM MD**

\* \* \*

**Helps Support a Healthy Immune System**

\* \* \*

**USE IT WHERE YOU NEED IT MOST:**

✓ SCHOOLS
✓ OFFICES

- THEATERS
- MALLS
- AIRPLANES
- RESTAURANTS
- HEALTH CLUBS
- USE DAILY

Side Panel:

**DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

Drop 2 Germ MD effervescent tablets (1 serving) of Germ MD in a serving of water, let dissolve, and then drink each morning. Take one additional serving later in the day, prior to entering crowded areas such as airplanes, schools, offices, or wherever you need it most.

Back Panel:

\* \* \*

▷ **The Power of New Germ MD**

It is not possible to remove germs from your everyday life – but now you can be proactive with new Germ MD! Germ MD is your number one immune defense.

c. Website for Germ MD Product “Coming Soon” (Ex. Q)

[Several multicolored cartoon germs superimposed on different images, specifically, one of a cafeteria with people sitting, one of a crowded area with escalators and stairs, and one of a crowded subway station.]

**GERM MD**

\* \* \*

**Helps to support a healthy immune system**

- Germ MD Helps Support a Healthy Immune System
- Medical-Doctor Formulated
- Research-Driven; Backed by Science

\* \* \*

Use Daily Where You Need it Most:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airplanes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subways

Theaters  
 Malls

Restaurants  
 Health Clubs

*“GermMD is scientifically formulated to help support your immune system so that you can be proactive.”*

**Dr. Marvin Heuer, U.S. Licensed MD, FAAFP, MD  
Scientific Advisory Board Member, Chief  
Scientific Officer, Iomedix**

18. To induce consumers to purchase **Allergy MD**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits R through V. Among other things, the advertisements contain the following statements or depictions:

a. Allergy MD Packaging (Ex. R)

Front Panel:

[Picture of a woman blowing the seeds off of a dandelion and the seeds blowing in the wind. Another picture of a man, woman, two children, and a dog lying outside in the grass.]

**ALLERGY MD**  
**Clinically Proven Immune System Support**  
▷ **FAST POWERFUL**  
**RESULTS WHEN**  
**YOU NEED IT!**

\* \* \*

Back Panel:

[Photo of five individuals in white lab coats; three also have stethoscopes around their necks. A caption above the photo reads:]  
The Medical Doctors (MDs) In Allergy MD

[A caption under the photo reads:]  
**MD Scientific Advisory Board** (Medical Doctors left to right) . . .

▷ **The All-in-One Solution**  
Medical doctor formulated and approved **Allergy MD** is an all-in-one

formula with a clinically proven compound scientifically designed to support your immune system in a totally new and powerful way! Many of the other products on the market do not provide both fast and long-lasting effects . . . This is where Allergy MD is completely different. By providing fast, as well as extended immune system support, Allergy MD is non-drowsy, and has powerful effects that last throughout the day.

» **The Importance of the Immune System**

Allergy MD is so effective because its key compound promotes the suppression of a specific immuno-active group of molecules known as “leukotrienes”. These leukotrienes mediate the immune system reaction in your body. When leukotrienes are elevated, your body manifests a variety of several undesired effects. Allergy MD provides an unprecedented level of immune system support and helps the body suppress the effects of the leukotrienes so you can be at your best.

» **Clinically Proven and Doctor Formulated**

Peer reviewed and published clinical research testifies to the power of the key compound in Allergy MD. In one key double-blind, placebo-controlled study, participants demonstrated significant improvements in combating the physiological effects of numerous episode types.

b. Combination Advertisement for Cholesterol MD, Allergy MD and Heartburn MD (*Ex. S*)

\* \* \*

Peer reviewed published clinical research testifies to the power of the key compound in Allergy MD. In one key double-blind, placebo controlled study, participants demonstrated significant improvements in combating the physiological effects of numerous environmental challenges.

c. Advertisement for Allergy MD (*Ex. T*)

[Picture of dandelions with seeds and grass. In the foreground is a picture of the Allergy MD box with a picture of a woman blowing the seeds off a dandelion.]

\* \* \*

**The Science behind Allergy MD**

With its dual-release formula, Allergy MD helps your body's own immune system to take on whatever Mother Nature blows your way. The key compound in Allergy MD promotes the suppression of leukotrienes, a group of molecules which mediate the immune system reaction in your body so you can rise above the seasonal and environmental challenges you

face.

d. Allergy MD Video Ad Storyboard (*Ex. U*)

[Five individuals wearing white lab coats and stethoscopes around their necks.]

[**LARGE SUPER: 100% Drug-Free Powerful Results**

DOCTOR: Get fast, powerful, long-lasting effects

[Close-up of Allergy MD package being held by individual in a white lab coat and stethoscope.]

DOCTOR: with new Allergy MD.

[3 panels: Allergy MD box spinning in a field of grass with dandelion seed flowers “whooshing” around.]

SOUND EFFECTS: [Panel 1] Whooshing In, [Panel 2] Spinning In, [Panel 3] Out.

[**LARGE SUPER: Panels 1 & 2 So Fast – Releases in Seconds!**

[**LARGE SUPER: Panel 3 So Powerful – Long Lasting Results!**

DOCTOR: It actually works to quickly support your immune system. So fast, the key ingredient gets released in seconds. So powerful, you can count on long-lasting results.

SUPER: Study participants demonstrated improvements in combating the physiological effects of numerous episode types. Results will vary.

[Allergy MD box with names of retailers (Supercenters and Walgreens) and MD Product website.]

[**LARGE SUPER: 100% Drug-Free Powerful Results**

MALE ANNOUNCER: Get yours at [mdproducts.com](http://mdproducts.com) and stores everywhere.

SUPER: These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

e. Allergy MD Website (*Ex. V, p. I*)

\* \* \*

**Clinically Proven Immune System Support:**

... New doctor-formulated and approved Allergy MD is a unique all-in-one formula with clinically proven compounds that have been scientifically developed to help support your immune system against seasonal and environmental challenges. . . . Allergy MD helps you overcome seasonal and environmental challenges quickly.

\* \* \*

**The Importance of the Immune System**

Allergy MD is so effective because its key compound inhibits a specific immuno-active group of molecules known as leukotrienes. These leukotrienes mediate the immune system reaction in your body. When leukotrienes are elevated, your body manifests a variety of several undesired reactions as a result of environmental challenges. By inhibiting the immune-system activating effects of these leukotrienes, Allergy MD provides a level of immune system support so you can rise above the seasonal and environmental challenges you face.

f. Allergy MD Website (*Ex. V, p. 3*)

\* \* \*

**How does Allergy MD work with someone's immune system?**

Answer: Allergy MD works with your body's immune system to help you fight back against seasonal and environmental challenges. . . .

19. To induce consumers to purchase **Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs**, Defendants have disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, advertisements, including, but not limited to, the attached Exhibits W and X. Among other things, the advertisements contain the following statements or depictions:

a. Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs Packaging (*Ex. W*)

Front Panel:

[Picture of a woman blowing her nose into a tissue. Another picture of flowers with pollen.]

► **NON-DROWSY**  
► **INDOOR-OUTDOOR**  
► **TRADITIONALLY USED**  
**FOR RELIEF FROM**  
**ALLERGY SYMPTOMS:**  
✓ SNEEZING  
✓ RUNNY NOSE  
✓ ITCHY, WATERY EYES  
✓ HAY FEVER  
✓ NASAL CONGESTION

Back Panel:

\* \* \*

▷ **Allergy MD is the All-in-One Homeopathic Solution**

When your allergies flare up, relief can't come fast enough. That's why we are proud to introduce new doctor-formulated homeopathic Allergy MD. Non-drowsy Allergy MD goes to work to relieve your most stubborn allergy symptoms so you can feel better faster!

b. Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs Website (*Ex. X, pp. 1 - 2*)

[Picture of a dandelions with seeds and grass. A man and a woman are standing in the grass smiling.]

\* \* \*

**NEW HOMEOPATHIC ALLERGY MD – JUST 1 PER DAY!**

Medical doctor formulated Allergy MD uses 100% natural, active ingredients traditionally indicated in homeopathy to give you stimulant-free, non-drowsy, all-season relief from allergy symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, hay fever, nasal congestion and itchy watery eyes.

\* \* \*

[Graphic: picture of a woman blowing her nose into a handkerchief or tissue]

\* \* \*

**Allergy MD is Your All-In-One Solution For Allergy Relief!**

Allergy MD is the first, all-season, multi-ingredient allergy product that is medical doctor formulated to address the important needs of allergy sufferers. It's a stimulant-free non-drowsy, indoor-outdoor allergy formula that fuses sound scientific architecture with 100% natural, active ingredients to alleviate the toughest allergy symptoms. Allergy MD is fast-acting, long-lasting and so effective that all you need is just 1 per day!

## **DEFENDANTS' VIOLATIONS OF THE FTC ACT**

20. Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce.

21. Section 12(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 52(a), prohibits the dissemination of any false advertisement in or affecting commerce for the purpose of inducing, or which is likely to induce, the purchase of food, drugs, devices, services, or cosmetics. For the purposes of

Section 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 52, the Iovate Products are “foods” or “drugs” as “foods” and “drugs” are defined in Section 15(b) and (c) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 55(b) and (c).

**COUNT ONE**

**False and Unsubstantiated Weight Loss Claims**

22. Through the means described in Paragraphs 14 through 15, including, but not limited to, the statements and depictions contained in the advertisements attached as Exhibits A through G, Defendants have represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that:

- a. Accelis causes users to lose substantial amounts of weight, including as much as one to two pounds per week;
- b. Accelis is clinically proven to cause substantial weight loss;
- c. nanoSLIM causes users to lose substantial amounts of weight, including as much as 32 pounds; and
- d. nanoSLIM is clinically proven to cause substantial weight loss.

23. The representations set forth in Paragraph 22 are false or were not substantiated at the time the representations were made. Therefore, the making of the representations in Paragraph 22 constitutes a deceptive practice and the making of false advertisements, in or affecting commerce, in violation of Sections 5(a) and 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a) and 52.

**COUNT TWO**

**False and Unsubstantiated Disease Prevention and Treatment Claims**

24. Through the means described in Paragraph 16, including, but not limited to, the statements and depictions contained in the advertisements attached as Exhibits H through M, Defendants have represented, expressly or by implication, that:

- a. Cold MD increases resistance to colds and flu by 312%;
- b. Cold MD reduces the duration of colds and flu by 94%;
- c. Cold MD protects against colds and flu when taken before entering crowded places such as buses, offices, restaurants, schools, airplanes, or trains; and
- d. Cold MD is clinically proven to reduce the frequency and duration of colds and flu.

25. Through the means described in Paragraph 17, including, but not limited to, the statements and depictions contained in the advertisements attached as Exhibits N through Q, Defendants have represented, expressly or by implication, that:

- a. Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs and Germ MD Effervescent Tablets provide protection against cold and flu germs;
- b. Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs and Germ MD Effervescent Tablets prevent or reduce infection from cold and flu germs and the incidence of colds or flu; and
- c. Scientific evidence demonstrates that Germ MD EZ-Swallow Rapid-Tabs and Germ MD Effervescent Tablets prevent or reduce infection from germs and the incidence of colds or flu.

26. Through the means described in Paragraph 18, including, but not limited to, the statements and depictions contained in the advertisements attached as Exhibits R through V, Defendants have represented, expressly or by implication, that:

- a. Allergy MD provides fast and long-lasting relief from seasonal and environmental allergies, including those caused by grasses and plants

whose pollen is spread by the wind; and

- b. Allergy MD is clinically proven to provide relief from seasonal and environmental allergies.

27. Through the means described in Paragraph 19, including, but not limited to, the statements and depictions contained in the advertisements attached as Exhibits W and X, Defendants have represented, expressly or by implication, that:

- a. Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs provide relief from hay fever and all-season and environmental allergies, including symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, itchy and watery eyes, and nasal congestion; and
- b. Allergy MD Rapid-Tabs is a homeopathic product.

28. The representations set forth in Paragraphs 24 through 27 are false or were not substantiated at the time the representations were made. Therefore, the making of the representations in Paragraphs 24 through 27 constitutes a deceptive practice and the making of false advertisements, in or affecting commerce, in violation of Sections 5(a) and 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a) and 52.

### **CONSUMER INJURY**

29. Consumers have suffered and will continue to suffer substantial injury as a result of Defendants' violations of the FTC Act. In addition, Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of their unlawful acts or practices. Absent injunctive relief by this Court, Defendants are likely to continue to injure consumers, reap unjust enrichment, and harm the public interest.

### **THIS COURT'S POWER TO GRANT RELIEF**

30. Section 13(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), empowers this Court to grant injunctive and such other relief as the Court may deem appropriate to halt and redress violations

of any provision of law enforced by the FTC Act. The Court, in the exercise of its equitable jurisdiction, may award other ancillary relief, including rescission or reformation of contracts, restitution, the refund of monies paid, and the disgorgement of ill-gotten monies, to prevent and remedy any violation of any provision of law enforced by the FTC.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Wherefore, Plaintiff FTC, pursuant to Section 13(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), and the Court's own equitable powers, requests that the Court:

- (a) Enter a permanent injunction to prevent future violations of the FTC Act by Defendants;
- (b) Award such relief as the Court finds necessary to redress injury to consumers resulting from Defendants' violations of the FTC Act, including, but not limited to, rescission or reformation of contracts, restitution, the refund of monies paid, and the disgorgement of ill-gotten monies; and

(c) Award Plaintiff the costs of bringing this action, as well as such other and additional relief as the Court may determine to be just and proper.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

WILLARD K. TOM  
General Counsel

  
THEODORE H. HOPPOCK  
DEVIN W. DOMOND  
ELISE D. WHANG  
SYDNEY M. KNIGHT  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
NJ-3212  
Washington, D.C. 20580  
(202) 326-3087 (voice)  
(202) 326-3259 (facsimile)

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION